



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **For Immediate Release**

February 9, 2005

### **PINELLAS EXECUTIVE SENTENCED** **IN CASE INVOLVING THEFT OF** **\$660,000 FROM EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN**

Tampa, Florida - William Henry "Skip" Curlott, a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida, was sentenced today in the United States District Court, to a 24 month term of imprisonment as a result of his conviction that he knowingly and willfully conspired to launder money stolen from an employee pension plan. Curlott was also ordered to pay \$660,000 dollars in restitution.

James L. Warburton, Jr., the former Director of Human Resources for the Comdial Corporation, located in Sarasota, Florida, was sentenced to 27 months in prison in October 2004 for stealing \$660,000 from Comdial's employee pension plan between February 20, 2002 and January 29, 2003. Warburton received credit for cooperating with the Government in the case against Curlott.

Curlott, age 32, is the owner and CEO of Turnpike Technologies, Inc., a full service staff leasing company. He pled guilty last October to one count of conspiring with

Warburton to launder the \$660,000 in stolen funds through a Turnpike bank account which he controlled. According to the plea agreement filed with the court, Warburton, in his capacity as Comdial's Director of Human Resources, was able to direct that funds belonging to the pension plan be paid to Turnpike Technologies, supposedly for services provided by Turnpike to the pension plan. However, no such services were actually provided. A total of \$660,000 was ultimately paid to Turnpike and deposited into Turnpike's bank account. Curlott then wrote checks to Warburton totaling \$463,000, while keeping \$197,000 as his "fee."

The case was investigated by the Sarasota Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dennis I. Moore.